

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-29 stand rejected. Claims 1, 13 and 24 have been amended. In view of the following, all rejected claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-7, 12-15, 17-18, 23-25 and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) **As Being Anticipated By Loudermilk**

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a capacitor coupled between first and second contacts, the capacitor being serially coupled only to the first and second contacts.

For example, referring, *e.g.*, to FIG. 1 and paragraph 21 of the present specification, a connector 10 includes a first pair of male contacts 40 and 42 and a second pair of male contacts 44 and 46. The connector 10 further includes AC blocking capacitors 50 and 52. The capacitor 50 is coupled between contact 40 and contact 44 and the capacitor 52 is coupled between the contact 42 and the contact 46.

Loudermilk, on the other hand, fails to teach a capacitor coupled between first and second contacts, the capacitor being serially coupled only to the first and second contacts. For example, Loudermilk, at, *e.g.*, FIGS. 2 -4 and col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 32, discloses first contacts 122 and second contacts 132 coupled together by a circuit board 200 that includes capacitors C1-C7. However, the capacitors C1-C7 are arranged in parallel with respect to the contacts 122 and 132. As such, in no manner does Loudermilk teach or suggest that any of the capacitors C1-C7 are serially coupled only to a (first) contact 122 and a (second) contact 132.

Claims 13 and 24

Claims 13 and 24 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 12, 14-15, 17-18, 23, 25 and 27

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 12, 14-15, 17-18, 23, 25 and 27 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 13 and 24.

Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 13 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) As Being Anticipated By Dolin, Jr. ("Dolin")

Claims 1 and 13

Dolin fails to teach a capacitor coupled between first and second contacts, the capacitor being directly coupled only to the first and second contacts. For example, Dolin, at, *e.g.*, FIG. 2 and col. 2, line 67 to col. 3, line 21, discloses a coupler 10 that includes contacts comprising a first power prong receiving slot 18, a second power prong receiving slot 20, a first prong 28 and a second prong 30. A first power line conductor 23 connects the first slot 18 with the prong 28. Similarly, a second conductor 25 connects the second slot 20 with the prong 30. The coupler 10 includes a capacitor 35, which electrically connects the first and second power line conductors 23 and 25. As such, the capacitor 35 couples the slot 20 to, for example, the prong 28. Similarly, the capacitor 35 couples the slot 18 to, for example, the prong 30. Accordingly, in no manner does Dolin teach or suggest a capacitor being serially coupled only to first and second contacts.

Claims 5 and 16

Claims 5 and 16 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 13.

Rejection of Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 18-21, 24, 26 and 28-29 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) As Being Anticipated By Swift

Claims 1, 13 and 24

Swift fails to teach a capacitor coupled between first and second contacts, the capacitor being directly coupled only to the first and second contacts. For example, Swift, at, *e.g.*, FIG. 1 and col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 33, discloses a contact assembly including mating sections 2 and 3 at respective ends of the assembly for mating the contact assembly with a corresponding contact or conductor on a second

connector, a cable, or another electrical device. Mating sections 2 and 3 may take the form of a socket or pin. The contact assembly further includes a transient suppression component 11, which may be a capacitor. However, the component 11 is coupled to ground via, for example, a ground plate 15. As such, in no manner does Swift teach or suggest that the component 11 is serially coupled only to the sections 2 and 3.

Claims 7-10, 18-21, 26 and 28-29

Claims 7-10, 18-21, 26 and 28-29 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 13 and 24.

**Rejection of Claims 11 and 22 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable
Over Swift**

Claims 11 and 22 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 13.

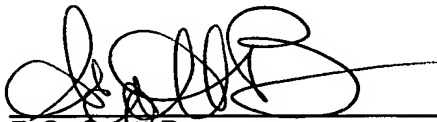
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-29 are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 425.455.5575. In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

Dated: January 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.G. Scott Born', written over a horizontal line.

P.G. Scott Born

Registration No. 40,523

155 - 108th Avenue N.E., Suite 350

Bellevue, WA 98004-5901

(425) 455-5575